

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended) A method for filtering fluid comprising:

providing fluid to be filtered against a first side of a flexible membrane opposite from a second side of the flexible membrane that includes compressible filter media;

compressing the flexible membrane with the fluid to be filtered from the first side to compress the filter media on the second side of the flexible membrane; and

filtering the fluid to be filtered through the filter media on the second side of the flexible membrane to remove solid particles from the fluid to be filtered, wherein the filter media includes detached fibrous bundles.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

agitating the filter media to dislodge solids adhering to the media after filtering fluid through the media; and

removing effluent containing solids dislodged during the agitating of the filter media by guiding expelled backwash fluid away from reentering a housing.

Claims 28-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended) The method of claim [[32]] 26 wherein the filter media is included in a bed of filter media, the bed including at least two different compression zones.

Claim 35 (currently amended) The method of claim 34 wherein at least one compression zone is uncompressed by the flexible membrane housing.

Claims 36-44 (canceled)

Claim 45 (currently amended) ~~A method for filtering fluid comprising~~ The method of claim 26 further comprising:

~~receiving fluid to be filtered in a housing, wherein the housing contains compressible filter media detached from any surrounding portion of the housing;~~

compressing and increasing density of at least a portion of the filter media in a direction non-parallel to the direction of the flow of fluid to be filtered through the filter media by overcoming hydrostatic pressure of the fluid within ~~the a~~ housing;

filtering the fluid through the media to remove solid particles; and

agitating and circulating the filter media to backwash the solid particles from the media.

Claim 46 (canceled)

Claim 47 (currently amended) The method of claim 45 wherein elevated backwash fluid is expelled through an upper perforated plate in the housing that includes at least one trough adjacent to the plate that directs elevated backwash fluid from reentering the housing through the plate.

Claims 48-56 (canceled)